

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully reconsidering this application.

Claim of Priority

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the claim to priority of International Application PCT/JP03/12975 filed on October 9, 2003.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled and claim 4 is independent. Claims 5-9 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 4.

Claim Amendments

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention. Claim 4 has been rewritten into independent form and includes limitations previously recited in claims 1-3. Claim 5 has been amended to more clearly define the engagement part formed upon the lock member. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for the amendments may be found, for example, within originally filed claims 1-9 and within the specification in paragraph [0028] (last paragraph of page 9).

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, Examiner asserts that claim 6 is confusing because the “engagement recess” and the “engagement part” are both formed on the “first arm” within the claim, but the

specification discloses having the “engagement recess” and the “engagement part” formed on opposite parts, such as the “first arm” and the “second arm.” However, Applicant notes that claim 6 does not refer to the “engagement recess” and the “engagement part.” Applicant therefore assumes that Examiner instead intended to reject claim 5 that refers to the “engagement recess” and the “engagement part.” If this belief is incorrect, Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

As such, claim 5 has been amended by this reply to recite having the engagement part formed on the lock member, rather than the first arm. Specifically, the engagement part formed on the lock member engages with the engagement recess formed within the first arm. This engagement prohibits the second arm from turning toward the folded position when located at the development position. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in paragraph [0028] (last paragraph on page 9) of the currently filed specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,142,739 (“Lin”), and also anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,825,290 (“Messina”). By way of this reply, claims 1-3 have been cancelled, rendering these rejections moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4-9 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 4 has been rewritten into independent form and includes all of the

limitations of claim 1, the base claim, and claims 2 and 3, all intervening claims. Thus, claim 4 is now allowable. Dependent claims 5-9 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 12088/030001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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